

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 27, 2006

University of Illinois College of Law
Assistant Dean for Communications

College of Law to host “Consent Decree” hearing October 19

Limited public seating available for hearing in Johnson v. Board of Education case

For more information, contact Dave Johnson at (217) 244-4014

The University of Illinois College of Law will host the United State District Court-Central District of Illinois and Judge Joe Billy McDade in the *Sa'Da Johnson, et al. v. Board of Education, Champaign Community Unit School District # 4* case, commonly referred to in the media as the “Consent Decree” case, on Thursday, October 19, 2006 beginning at 12:30 p.m. The hearing will take place in the Max L. Rowe Auditorium. Seating in the Auditorium will be restricted and there will be no general public seating available in the Auditorium. However, there will be 98 general public seats available on a first-come, first-serve basis in Room D of the Law Building with the hearing available for closed circuit television viewing. If an individual leaves the closed circuit room for any reason during the hearing, their seat will be given to the next waiting person. There is metered parking in Lot E-15 located at the corner of Fourth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (directly south of the Law Building) and there is ample meter parking available on the streets adjacent to the College.

Although this is an atypical location for court proceedings, all persons are reminded that this is an official court proceeding and that all federal court rules including the Central District of Illinois Local Rules must be followed. In particular, all persons entering either the hearing room or the closed circuit room will be subject to search. Further, Local Rule 83.7 will apply to both rooms during the hearing. Thus, no person will be allowed to possess electronic devices including cameras, video recorders, cellular or digital phones, palm pilots, pda's, computers, and all similar electronic, cable, digital, computerized or other forms and methods of recordings, transmitting, or communicating. Picture identification will be required for admittance to the hearing room. Violators of these rules are subject to penalties including fines or imprisonment.

Open public comment will not be allowed during this hearing. However, organizations, groups, or individuals wishing to comment at the hearing may submit a type-written statement describing the nature of their interest in this litigation and a summary of their proposed commentary. The type-written statement should not exceed five pages, and should be sent directly to: Chambers of Judge Joe Billy McDade, 127 Federal Building, 100 N.E. Monroe Street, Peoria, IL 61602. These statements must be received by the Court on or before October 9, 2006. The Court will consider the statements and may, in its discretion, allow limited comment by the organization, group, or individual during the hearing. These statements may also be shared with the litigation parties and/or Court Appointed Monitor.

Media Coverage

Seating: There will be limited seating available for the press in Max L. Rowe Auditorium. Any press source interested in sitting in the Auditorium must notify the Court at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Individuals sitting the Auditorium should remain in the room except during scheduled breaks; individuals who leave the Auditorium for any reason during the hearing will

not be allowed to reenter the room until the next break in the proceedings.

Television/Radio Coverage: No television cameras, audio or video recording devices or any other electronic device will be allowed in the College of Law Building during the hearing.

Television stations wishing to set up a satellite truck are instructed to contact Dave Johnson, Assistant Dean for Communications, at (217) 244-4014 for truck parking and set-up instructions. All television stand-ups and live shots will be conducted in the Courtyard directly adjacent to the Peabody Drive entrance to the College of Law. No stand-ups will be allowed in the College of Law Building.

Media Workroom: For media members needing to file stories, a Media Workroom will be available in the Dean's Suite Conference Room (Room 200) under the direction of Dean Johnson.